



Private Detective - Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I have to be employed by a Wisconsin licensed Private Detective Agency in order to be licensed as a Private Detective in Wisconsin?**
 - Yes. DSPS does not license independent contractors in the state of Wisconsin per [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 31.01\(2\)\(b\)](#).
- **Do I need to obtain a \$2,000 bond?**
 - Only if the agency in which you are an employee is also covered by a bond. Most agencies are covered by liability insurance, which is required to cover all Private Detectives the agency employs. A bond is not required if you are covered by your employing agency's liability insurance policy.
- **What if I just want to work for myself?**
 - You must apply for a Private Detective/Security Agency license. You may find more information about Private Detective/Security Agency licensure by [clicking here](#).
- **How do I schedule the Private Detective exam, and what information will it cover?**
 - You may view the [Exam Information](#) page for information on the Private Detective exam.
- **I am a licensed Private Detective in another state. Does Wisconsin have a reciprocal agreement with other states for this profession?**
 - No. Wisconsin does not have reciprocal agreements with any other states for Private Detective licensure. The requirements for licensure in Wisconsin are the same for all applicants, regardless of previous experience or licensure.
- **My fingerprints are already on file with the FBI. Do I still need to complete digital fingerprints?**
 - Yes. DSPS does not have access to previously collected fingerprints.
- **How long does it take for applications to be processed?**
 - When DSPS receives an application, our goal is to complete the initial processing of the application within **10 business days**. Please allow processing time before inquiring about the status of an application. If 10 business days have passed from the date the payment was processed, you may check the application status online by [clicking here](#), calling the Customer Service Center at 608-266-2112, or emailing dsps@wisconsin.gov. **Please note, if your payment has been processed, your application has been received and will be reviewed in the order it was received.**
- **Can I apply for licensure online?**
 - Yes. The Online Licensure Application System (OLAS) is a great alternative to the paper application process. Apply online at <https://olas.wi.gov/>.
- **What is the most common delay in application processing?**
 - The most common delay in processing time is due to applicants not including required documentation when completing [Form #2252- Convictions and Pending Charges](#) (if applicable). The instructions (Page i) of this form lists the documentation required for each conviction.